Centenary for pioneer of modern weather forecasting

1 August 2013 - 100 years ago today physicist, mathematician and meteorologist Lewis Fry Richardson took up the post of Superintendent at Eskdalemuir Observatory.

In the years following his appointment, he pioneered mathematical methods for weather prediction laying the foundation for modern computerised weather forecasting.

Eskdalemuir is the most remote and climatologically extreme manned Met Office on mainland Britain. Met Office staff monitor the weather and climate as well as a taking readings from a variety of instruments, including seismic and geomagnetic, on behalf of the British Geological Survey .

To mark the centenary, the Met Office, in partnership with the Institute of Physics, will be unveiling a blue plaque.

Ian Dawson, Met Office Manager of Eskdalemuir said: "Although not a name familiar to the general public, Richardson is widely recognised by the scientific community as the father of present day weather forecasting, so this recognition is long overdue".

Alison McLure, Institute of Physics National Officer for Scotland said: "We're delighted to celebrate the work of Lewis Fry Richardson and the hundredth anniversary of his arrival at Eskdalemuir Observatory with this blue plaque. This centenary is also a great opportunity to highlight the important work done by physicists at the Met Office today."

Eskdalemuir is just one of a number of manned Met Office stations in Scotland. The Met Office has had a base in Aberdeen for more than 70 years. From here, we provide forecast services for a wide range of areas including public weather, marine and the renewable industry.

The Met Office also works closely with civil contingency networks across the country and has a group of dedicated advisors based in Scotland who help the emergency response community co-ordinate a rapid response to a wide range of severe weather.

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